Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 12305

EXDIS

PASS DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: KC SECTOR 33 APPROACH TO GKR

- 1. AT SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING I BRIEFED PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ON DEVELOPMENTS THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS ABSENCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING HIM PRIMED IN CASE THE MARSHAL OR SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ SHOULD CONSULT HIM ON IT.
- 2. LONG BORET SAID THAT THE FIRST APPROACH FROM SECTOR 33 KC HAD BEEN MADE TO HIM PERSONALLY, BY THE SAME FORMER POLICE OFFICER WHO EVENTUALLY APPROACHED SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ. THIS MAN HAD COME TO HIM ON AUGUST 21 WITH THE IDENTICAL PROPOSAL THAT PAK NEAM HAS BEEN USING IN HIS VARIOUS CONTACTS, WITH THE SAME LIST OF PEOPLE, HEAVY ARMAMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR A RALLYING TO THE GKR SIDE. LONG BORET SAID HE HAD IMMEDIATELY TAKEN THE MATTER TO THE MARSHAL AND HAD ARGUED STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF GKR ACCEPTANCE OF THE SECTOR 33 OFFER.
- 3. THE MARSHAL'S RESPONSE WAS THAT HE HAD IN THE PAST BEEN SWINDLED ("ROULE") MANY TIMES BY SUPPOSED RALLIERS. LONG BORET SAID HE TRIED TO CONVINCE THE MARSHAL THAT THIS OFFER DIFFERED FROM MANY OTHERS IN ONE IMPORTANT RESPECT AND FOR THAT REASON IT HAD TO BE TAKEN VERY SECRET

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SERIOUSLY. THE WAY IT DIFFERED, THE PRIME MINISTER EX-

PLAINED, WAS THAT IN THIS CASE THERE WAS NO DEMAND FOR A LARGE BUNDLE OF CASH TO BE HANDED OVER IN ADVANCE TO THE PROSPECTIVE RALLIERS. ALL THAT THE SECTOR 33 PEOPLE WERE ASKING FOR WAS A FEW COMMISSIONS ("GALONS"), WHICH WAS A VERY CHEAP PRICE TO PAY FOR WHAT WAS BEING OFFERED. IF THE THING DIDN'T WORK OUT, THE PRIME MINISTER CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER TO CANCEL THE COMMISSIONS.

- 4. LONG BORET SAID THAT HE ALSO TOOK THE LINE WITH THE MARSHAL THAT THE GKR DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO RECONQUER A LARGE PIECE OF TERRITORY SUCH AS SECTOR 33 AND THEREFORE IT OUGHT TO TRY TO "BUY IT BACK" BY MEANS OF AGREEING TO THE KC'S TERMS FOR A CEASEFIRE. LONG BORET SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY HE HAD LEFT PHNOM PENH BEFORE HE COULD CONVINCE THE MARSHAL THAT THIS WAS A GENUINE OFFER WHICH OUGHT TO BE TREATED SERIOUSLY. HE WAS PLEASED THAT THERE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN MAJOR PROGRESS DURING HIS ABSENCE AND THAT SOSTHENE HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE MARSHAL TO APPROVE THE GRANTING OF THE REQUESTED COMMISSIONS.
- 5. LONG BORET COMMENTED THAT FOR YEARS HE HAS DISAGREED WITH THE FANK LEADERSHIP ON HOW TO DEAL WITH RALLIERS. HE SAID THAT THE MILITARY INSISTED THEY BE INTERGRATED INTO THE FANK AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE OTHER END OF THE COUNTRY, FAR AWAY FROM THEIR FORMER AREA OF OPERA-TIONS, LONG BORET SAID HIS OWN VIEW IS THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH SIZEABLE GROUPS OF RALLIERS IS TO ARRANGE A CEASEFIRE IN PLACE AND TO LET THEM CONTINUE HOLDING THE TERRITORY THEY OCCUPIED PRIOR TO COMING OVER TO THE GKR SIDE. I REMARKED THAT PERHAPS THIS IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO END THE WAR. I.E. TO ARRANGE INDIVIDUAL CEASE-FIRES WITH UNITS ON THE OTHER SIDE IN ONE PLACE AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED COUNTRY-WIDE. LONG BORET SAID GIVEN THE GKR'S LIMITED RESOURCES, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY POSSIBLE. KEELEY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DIA.

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